

QPA

T O P S E C R E T

IN 31631

TOR: 07/0054Z JAN 69 DES

T O P S E C R E T 062309Z JAN 69 CITE [] 9198

25X1A

PRIORITY [] INFO []

25X1A

IDEALIST []

THIS IS A [] MESSAGE.

REF: [] 9132 (IN 31562)

1. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO FURTHER INFORMATION TO INDICATE POSSIBLE
CAUSE OF THIS LOSS, IT WOULD APPEAR FROM [] INDICATIONS THAT
THE AIRCRAFT ENTERED A RAPID RATE OF DESCENT FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON
FROM WHICH THE PILOT COULD NOT RECOVER.

25X1A

2. EXTENSIVE SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN
THE AREA OF INTEREST CENTERED ON [] HOWEVER, AS OF THIS
DATE NO TRACE OF THE PILOT OR WRECKAGE HAS BEEN SIGHTED. IT IS
PLANNED TO CONTINUE MAXIMUM SEARCH OPERATIONS THROUGH DAYLIGHT HOURS
3 JANUARY [] AND THEN A REDUCED EFFORT THROUGH DAYLIGHT
HOURS ON 9 JANUARY WHEN IT IS PLANNED TO TERMINATE SAR EFFORT.

3. FOLLOWING SEARCH EFFORTS/SUPPORT HAS BEEN CONDUCTED OR IS
PLANNED.

A. 5 JANUARY. SEARCH EFFORTS WERE HELD TO A MINIMUM DUE TO
POOR WEATHER IN THE AREA OF INTEREST. ONE EACH RC-97, P3A
AND KC-130 WERE AIRBORNE BUT AS ALREADY STATED, THE EFFECTIVENESS

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OF ANY SEARCH WAS DRASTICALLY REDUCED BECAUSE OF LOW CEILING AND VISIBILITY.

B. 6 JANUARY. 12 AIRCRAFT PLUS THREE MINE SWEEPERS (U.S. NAVY) WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE SEARCH EFFORT. WEATHER WAS GOOD.

C. 7 JANUARY. IT IS PLANNED TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH WITH 18 AIRCRAFT, THREE U.S. NAVY VESSELS PLUS TWO HU-19S, DURING THE DAYLIGHT HOURS.

D. 8 JANUARY. PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR THE SAME SCOPE OF SEARCH EFFORT AS 7 JANUARY.

E. DURING HOURS OF DARKNESS, A MINIMUM OF ONE ACFT AS REMAINED AIRBORNE TO MONITOR THE AREA AND TO PICK UP ANY DISTRESS SIGNAL THAT MIGHT BE SENT.

4. AN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BOARD HAS BEEN CONSTITUTED BY PROJ HQ. COL WILLIAM E. SHELTON, PROJ HQ, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD. THE BOARD IS COMPOSED OF MEMBERS FROM PROJ HQ, [] THEY ARE PRESENTLY [] AND PLAN TO BEGIN THE INVESTIGATION ON 8 JANUARY.

END OF MSG